

the footstool of the Almighty, thanked him for sending a Tract visitor to their dwelling. Both of them have now found salvation in the blood of the Lamb, and been welcomed to the fellowship of a Christian church upon a public profession of their faith.—*Christian Intelligencer.*

PREVALENCE OF INFIDELITY SUBSEQUENT TO THE REVOLUTION.

In the "Christian Citizen," a work by Rev. A. D. Eddy, of Newark, N. J. just published, we find the following account of the introduction of French Infidelity into this country, by Mr. JEFFERSON:

An individual long distinguished in the councils of this country, who had written his name deep and enduring on the foundation-stone of our civil structure, and on many accounts was endeared to the whole nation, had become familiar with the principles of French philosophy both in politics and religion. He had enjoyed the society and become deeply imbued with the spirit of that remarkable people, and he sincerely sympathized with them in their visionary speculations upon the advancement of society, and their full belief in the power of intellectual culture to secure the highest ends of the social state. Infidelity had done its work on his great mind.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, governed by the spirit of European skepticism, and animated with the speculative philosophy of revolutionary France, and aided by the peculiar circumstances of the country at that time, found in his own hand the power of turning the scale in favor of his elevation and influence of these United States.

Under such suscipes, and surrounded by these circumstances, he enters upon the solemn responsibilities of his high office; and whatever may be said of his own personal and direct influence, or of his political character, of which we have here nothing to say, the result was as obvious as it was melancholy. Instead of the stern virtues of the Puritan faith and of evangelical piety, with the conservative energies of a confederate *Christian* government, lending its aid to the advancement of virtue and religion, French morals, French infidelity, French philosophy, like French fashions, soon spread a new aspect over the face of society, and from the heart sent a feverish and fatal action to every extremity.

One of the peculiar and leading, if not most efficient influences that attended the elevation of Mr. Jefferson, was the "levelling system," so ruinous in France, and which found its way to this country at this eventful crisis of its history. It was not the agrarian movement of the *Tiers Etat* alone, but the very cry of the *sans culotte* of the streets of Paris. Instead of a wise and efficient effort to elevate every class of the community, and a laudable desire to advance through the influence of education and morality; there was a determination in the inferior orders of society to rise on the ruins of the higher classes of the community. A demand was made for the most enlarged liberty, and the vulgar prejudice was fanned to a flame. Low, ignorant and scurrilous infidelity had its jubilee; its high priest was the chief of the nation; and his voluminous writings, as well as his life, show how faithfully he served the altar at which he ministered.

His works have already been commented to the young men of our country, and as the guardians of their morality every Christian citizen must desire to furnish along with them an antidote to their poison. And while many claim the right to question the political sagacity of this distinguished man, we shall ever regret his influence on the morals of his nation, and feel it our duty to speak in decided disapprobation of his religious principles.

During the period of his administration, and for some years following it, the principles which he embraced exerted a most disastrous influence on the popular mind. Infidelity, both in its refinement and in its grossness, from the schools of Rochester, Roseau, and Shaftesbury; from Hobbs, Blount, Voltaire and Tom Paine, went forth to poison the public mind, and to feed the voracious appetite of the vulgar. It was popular not only at the seat of government, but it was so everywhere. Not a retired village, remote among the mountains of New England, but had its youthful society organized to discuss its principles and favor its claims; while every institution of learning found its seat thickly sown and springing with a vigorous growth.

When the head and the heart are both alike diseased, the whole body, to its remotest members, cannot resist the fatal contagion. Jefferson was the head, the heart, the idol of a numerous and powerful class of avowed skeptics. Disease spread through almost every member. It blindly worshipped and had its reward.

While the influence of the war of the Revolution prepared, in a measure, the way for this disastrous reign of infidelity, no one can question, that the burden of responsibility for its continuance and spread rests, in a great measure on Mr. Jefferson. Of this he was proud. His own table and the Sabbath became the theatre and the occasion on which "Christianity was made the subject of his conversation and his sneers," and the young men of his favorite university were the victims of his majestic *ex cathedra* invectives against the religion of the gospel.

He sought to lay the foundations of infidelity deep and durable by the broad projection of his literary institution, and in all his writings, down to one of the latest epistles that he dictated, as well as in his rejection of the consolations of religion on his death-bed, his sentiments were avowed and determined. Of the moral, political or private, consequent on such sentiments, the history of his life must decide.

When Dr. Dwight entered on the presidency of Yale College, that institution was entirely overrun with infidelity, and the most able productions of his great mind are found in his invaluable course on modern skepticism.

A reaction in the public mind soon took place, and under the fostering care of our literary and religious institutions better principles began to regain the ascendancy. Men almost universally saw that something better than infidelity was needed to "improve the reason and enlighten the general mind;" the without moral and religious principle there was no security for the rising generation, and no permanent stability to government or law. As France had sunk into the iron arms of a despotism, more cruel than that from which she revolted, and become the executioner of her own best sons, her friends and admirers here, warned by her

sad catastrophe, no longer to idolize reason in the rejection of Christ, began to reverence the principles of the gospel, as the only sure charter of republican liberty. The man, who "in his high and palmy state," was the idol of millions, had passed away, and "like all retiring statesmen," when losing their power of patronage, "experienced the desertion" of multitudes who once lived upon his smiles and were loud in his praise. Here he found the truth of his own "favorite dogma,"—"that though popular opinion may at first frequently be wrong, yet men will at last reach a correct conclusion." This became realized in his own case, and we no longer wonder that in the language of his own eulogist biographer, "it was the fate of Thomas Jefferson to be at once more loved and praised by his friends and more hated and reviled by his adversaries, than any of his compatriots;" and whatever admiration may be given to his political sagacity, no respect is due or can be paid to his moral or religious principles. Having tasted their bitter fruits, multitudes became ready to espouse the cause of a long neglected and despised Christianity. As by common consent other minds and other principles ultimately became ascendant, and the more valuable moral interests of the country began to advance, while virtue and religion lent their aid to the order and stability of the state."

PRISON DISCIPLINE.

PENNSYLVANIA SYSTEM, THAT IS, SOLITARY CONFINEMENT DAY AND NIGHT.

A letter from Bissell Hawkins, M. D., one of the inspectors of Prisons for the Southern and Western District of Great Britain, dated London, March 12, 1842, says—

"I am no friend to confining prisoners to labor in the cell. In the year 1841, we had several cases of insanity in the Penitentiary at Millbank, and I am sure they were produced by their confinement, but have daily exercise in their yards in company. This separate system, as it has been denominated, has made but little progress here as yet."

The inspectors of the new *Penitentiary* in Rhode Island, where this system was introduced about four years since, say, in their report to the legislature, in October, 1841, that

"No. 6 and 22 are laboring under mental derangement, and it is feared No. 24 will be a case of the same character."

This document is signed by seven inspectors—Thomas M. Burgess, Roger M. Potter, Barzillai Cranston, George Rice, Martin Standard, Christopher Rhodes, Amherst Everett.

The physician of the same Prison, in his report to the legislature, which is printed in the same Legislative Document, says—

"No. 6 and 22 are laboring under mental derangement, and it is feared No. 24 will be a case of the same character."

This document is signed by Richmond Brownell, and published in the 32d page of Legislative Document for October, 1842.

The physician of the new *Penitentiary* in New Jersey, which is built on the Pennsylvania plan, says, in his last report, October, 1841—

"The opinions expressed heretofore on the effects of solitary confinement are strengthened by every year's experience."

The more rigidly the plan is carried out, the more the spirit of the law is violated, and the effects are violent to the health of the convicts. A little more intercourse with each other, and a little more air in the yard, have the effect upon mind and body, that warmth has upon the thermometer, almost every degree of indulgence showing a corresponding increase in health of the individual. That an individual should be compelled to sit in his cell, with his hands behind his back, is a punishment calculated to this time, when the influences that control the animal functions are so well understood, seems like a determination to disregard science in the support of a mistaken but favorite policy."

The physician of the new *Penitentiary* in Philadelphia, in the Thirtieth Annual Report of that institution, submitted to the legislature in February, 1842, says at the cases of mental disease in the Eastern Penitentiary, in 1839, were 26; in 1840, 21; in 1841, 11.

The disorder, he says, "is now designated *Eratic Exercitation*, a term demanded by the necessity of the case." "The instances of mental disease and of erratic exorcism, are in inverse proportion to each other, the former becoming more with the more frequent detection of the latter."

COMPARATIVE MORTALITY OF PRISONS.

In New Hampshire, the average number of prisoners, for 13 years, has been 76.

The number of deaths, in the whole time, has been 8, giving a mortality of less than 1 in 100, annual.

In Connecticut, the average number of prisoners, for 12 years, has been 183.

The average number of deaths, in the whole time, has been 31, giving a mortality of less than 1 in 5.

In Massachusetts, the average number of prisoners, for 14 years, has been 256; the number of deaths, 57; the average number of deaths annually, 53.7, or less than 1 in 50.

In New York, at Auburn, the average number of prisoners, for 14 years, has been 657; the number of deaths, 121 annually, or less than 1 in 50.

In Pennsylvania, the average number of prisoners, for 12 years, has been 256; the whole number of deaths, 72; the average number of deaths annually, 5.7, or less than 1 in 50.

In New York, at Auburn, the average number of prisoners, for 14 years, has been 657; the number of deaths, 121 annually, or less than 1 in 50.

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In some Hospital opposite built of undressed granite, is a noble building. But the finest in the State is the Portland Exchange, few buildings in New England present more imposing appearance. It is massive, elegant; of a dark and uniform granite, tastefully dressed, and with a lofty column of eight solid fluted pillars. The dome is 60 feet in diameter outside, forms the top of a spacious hall in the upper story.—The building is about 130 feet by 80 on the ground, and cost the city about \$100,000. Apartments are fitted up for the use of the S. Court, and rent for \$3000 per annum; the chamber is occupied for various purposes, the eminent story, (or rather the first floor, which basement rooms, partly subterranean, stand beneath it) being occupied by the Post-office, a Reading-room, a Wardroom, and shop. There are many beautiful specimens of our churches, scattered over Maine, while those in our cities and large towns, are less elegant, and not say without offence, less extravagantly in the larger cities, south of us. In Bangor, however, there are several which may be called elegant, especially in their bower.

Private architecture in Maine stands high. The mansion of the Knox family in Thomaston, H. Gardner, Esq., in Gardiner, and several near Bangor and Portland, would compare magnificently with any country seats in the States. And the private dwellings in our cities are noticed by every stranger as superior to those of equal sized towns elsewhere. We are more noble and tasteful dwelling houses in Portland, in proportion to their population, than in any town I have seen in all the States. I ought to add, that I have not seen Bedford, which is said to form an exception.

I am told, however, that many of these houses have changed owners, and that the names and style of living of many of their parts, by no means correspond to their external aspect of wealth and comfort. I have nothing of our commerce, which is principally with the West Indies, and which employs a small part of our tonnage, the remainder engaged in the freighting business. Our exports are valuable, though from some unanticipated cause, even these ocean "banks" of late years sent forth their treasures less. I have something to say in my next, as to our moral and religious condition, meantime remain yours, truly, M. W.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Christian Citizen. The Obligations of the Christian Citizen, with a Review of High Principles in relation to Civil and Religious Institutions. New York: Published by S. Taylor & Co. Sold in this city by Kendall & Lincoln.

This work is by Rev. A. D. Eddy, of Newark, and is founded, as he states, upon a discourse delivered to his congregation on the occasion of the late Thanksgiving. A good many important topics are discussed with the well ability and vigor of the author; such as origin and claims of government—the tenets of party spirit—the principles and ends of American government—its character fifty years ago—of religion and of ecclesiastical organizations on civil institutions—high principles hostile to republican institutions—history of these principles—origin of liturgies and forms of worship—of influence of high principles on evangelical piety. We made an extract, in another column—which reader will find worth the attention—in a comprehensive view is given of the progress of infidelity in this country, immediately subsequent to Washington's administration.

Wisdom of God in our Calamities: A Discourse delivered on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 18, 1842. By Daniel Sharp, D.D. Boston: W. D. Ticknor.

This is an excellent and practically useful discourse, in which the preacher, after the example of Hosea 13: 9—on which text the sermon is founded) urges upon his hearers an attentive consideration of the dealings of Providence towards them. A summary view of public events is given, from which proof is drawn of the forbearance and goodness of God. Our present adversity is attributed to a general disregard of those maxims of prudence, equity, fairness, without which no nation ever yet prospered. The preacher says, with much truth:

"We may lay our calamities at the door of the administration, and attribute our disasters to its policy. How much of truth or of misapprehension there may be in these charges, perhaps it becomes me to say; but as a teacher and moralist, I do not wish to be a party to the administration, however wise or just its measures, as a people, so long as they are distinguishing themselves from the ruinous consequences of overtrading, of wild speculations, and incorporated and practically irresponsible soulless monopolies. And on the other hand, to administration in our country can ever be a people, so long as they are distinguishing for contentment, moderation, industry, economy and equity. It is righteousness that exalts and brings up; and every ungodly and wicked course we can adopt, cannot and ought not to be right of the fact, that if the people are intelligent and moral, the measures of the government will be wise, just and impartial. If the people are generally corrupt, we shall have a corrupt government. In this country we always have an illustration of the maxim, 'As people like administration.'

Marcus Paul's Travels, in New York, Part II. By His Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council. John A. Bolles, Secretary of State. *God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

FOREIGN.

ARRIVAL OF THE COLUMBIAN.—The steamship Columbia arrived from Liverpool on the 4th inst. Sir Charles Metcalfe, the new Governor General of Canada, a passenger,

The news is not important. We give below a summary of such matters as are of interest.

ENGLAND.

American Credit.—The creditors who have advanced their money to the repudiating States in the Union, have addressed a strong memorial on the subject to Mr. Everett, the American Minister, in London, with a request that it may be forwarded to the President, for presentation to Congress, and to the attention of the Senate.

The memorial advances every possible argument for the maintenance of the credit of the States, and shows, the almost irretrievable injury which American credit has sustained in Europe through the dishonesty of the States which have repudiated. It has received a great number of signatures.

The most striking passage relates to the pecuniary circumstances of the majority of the sufferers, and is as follows:

"An impression, we understand, prevails generally among your people, that their creditors in this country are, in great measure, men of large fortunes, to whom a failure in their securities can occasion but little inconvenience. Even if such were the case, it would, in our view of the matter, furnish a good ground for departure from the very object of your demands. But, however, there is a fact which is a few among us in more difficult circumstances, yet by far the larger portion of us are persons in the middle ranks of life—officers on half pay—superannuated clerks—retired tradesmen living on small means—spinster widows, and orphans—many of whom have invested their all in the purchase of your securities, at high prices, and now depend for their subsistence, for their daily bread, on the grace of your people."

The bill was then passed to its second reading.

Mr. Tarbell, of the Committee on Finance, reported a bill to call the legislature into session for the capital stocks.

A motion was made to recommit the bill to the Judiciary, which was discussed at much length, and lost. The question was taken on its rejection and decided in the negative.

The bill was then passed to its second reading.

Afternoon.—Mr. Thomas of Charlestown, from the Special Committee on the petition of W. T. Tracy, made a report concluding with resolutions, that the offence was committed on the 30th of June last, and was the sovereign of the Commonwealth, by the force and abduction of the said Olney and four others; that the State of Rhode Island, by imprisoning these persons, had made herself a party to this defence, and laid herself open to the censure of the secondary and subordinate. Who would

have lived during the "Reign of Terror" in

revolutionary Paris, when each successive morn-

ing might hurry him to the guillotine, for all

the diamonds of Golconda and Brazil; who

would now live at the mercy of the pacts of a

Turkish, or of the Khan of a Persian, province

for uncounted gold?" And thus security to life

must be afforded, we say, come what may.

If it could be done, then the criminal laws and all its

other laws must be moulded accordingly. Men

may speculate unwisely and rashly upon many

subjects, and whether they are sincere or wildly

reckless, it is comparatively a little moment.

But when the inquiry is—how shall he who has

destroyed human life be punished, so that the

community may be made effectually secured

against the same?—In the Senate, the

bill in relation to the Balfinch street church was

again under discussion.

In the House, papers from the Senate were

disposed of in concurrence. Among them were

the order for prorogation on Tuesday next, and

an order providing for the appointment of a joint

committee, to ascertain the loss and suf-

fers by the destruction of the Ursuline Convent,

which were laid on the table.

The first paper in the order was the bill to

incorporate the American Mutual Insurance Com-

pany.

Points of order were raised, as to who was en-

titled to the floor, which was discussed for half

an hour, when they were withdrawn, and Mr.

Leonard, of Westfield, obtained the floor, and

read his speech.

Mr. Stevenson succeeded in getting the floor,

and spoke upon the merits of the bill.

Friday, March 17.—In the Senate, the

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The distress at Stockbridge is stated to be

alarmingly bad, numbers are subsisting on furnaces alone!

Mr. Charles Buller has given notice in the

House of Commons of his intention "To move

on the necessity of extensive and systematic colonization, with a view of bettering the condition of the people."

*The *Charlists*.—The trials of the*

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